

of Malvern. On September 6, Sergeant Yarbrough was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq's Anbar Province. Also killed in the blast were SSgt John Stock, Cpl Bryan Scripsick, and Cpl Christopher Poole. The death of these four young men brought the total number of Marine deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq over 1,000. All four men were assigned to the 3rd Assault Amphibious Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Sergeant Yarbrough was also the second graduate of Glen Rose High School in Malvern killed in action within a month's time. Spc Donovan Witham, also of Malvern, died on August 21 from a roadside bomb near Baghdad. In an interview with the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Glen Rose Middle School principal Tim Holicer somberly noted, "We are still grieving the loss of one, and here we have another one of our young men to be killed in Iraq. That's as hard on everybody around here as anything."

According to Sergeant Yarbrough's mother, Rhonda Fain-Yarbrough, her son wasn't scheduled to be in Iraq. He volunteered to return for a third tour after he heard that another soldier's wife was expecting a baby. "Michael didn't want to see him go, so he took his place." He told her that "as long as my men are there, I'm going to be there with them."

As the Yarbrough family and Malvern community grieve, we grieve with them. He will be remembered by those who loved him as a young man who was destined to be a soldier. "Ever since he was a little boy, he would march around with a stick on his shoulder, saying 'I'm going to be in the Army, Mom, I'm going to be in the Army.'" Mrs. Fain-Yarbrough told the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. True to his word, he enlisted after September 11, 2001.

For his efforts, Sergeant Yarbrough was awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, The National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal, among others. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann Yarbrough; his mother Rhonda Fain-Yarbrough of Benton; and father Jerry Yarbrough of Gurdon. In addition, his grandmother Dolline Fain, and two sisters, Christy Smith of Arkadelphia and Misty Hutcheson of Traskwood, as well as their families will most certainly miss him. A grateful nation's thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, is currently considering the renewal of the California Department of Water Resources, DWR, license for the Oroville Facilities hydroelectric project in Butte County, CA.

DWR is exempt from paying State, local, or a Federal tax associated with

the Oroville Project and has not compensated Butte County for the services it provides for the project and its visitors. Butte County believes the relicensing is an opportunity to mitigate the county's revenue losses, which are estimated at nearly \$6.9 million per year.

FERC's Final Environmental Impact Statement also acknowledges that the Oroville Project has a negative fiscal impact on Butte County.

I have sent a letter to FERC asking that they consider efforts to mitigate Butte County's revenue loss and treat all parties equitably during the Oroville Project relicensing proceedings, and I ask unanimous consent to have text of this letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 13, 2007.

Chairman JOSEPH T. KELLIHER,
Commissioner SUEDEEN G. KELLY,
Commissioner PHILIP MOELLER,
Commissioner MARC SPITZER,
Commissioner JOHN WELLINGHOFF,
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KELLIHER AND COMMISSIONERS: I am writing in regards to the relicensing proceedings for the Oroville Facilities hydroelectric project (Project P-2100) currently before the Commission. As you know, Butte County is required to provide services associated with the Oroville Facilities Project and its visitors, including law enforcement, fire and rescue, and road maintenance services.

The Commission's Final Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges the negative net fiscal impact the Oroville Facilities Project may impose on Butte County. As you prepare your final decision regarding the relicensing, I encourage you to consider efforts to mitigate the County's revenue loss. I am hopeful that all parties involved with the relicensing of the Oroville Facilities will be regarded equitably. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Steven Domer, an Oklahoma City, OK, resident, went missing on October 26, 2007. The following day, police found his torched car and his body was found in a nearby ravine days later. On November 7, 2007, Darrell Madden was arrested for the shooting death of his friend Bradley Qualls. Both men were seen with the 62-year-old Domer the

day of his disappearance and are believed to have been involved in his murder. Madden has been charged with murder for allegedly strangling Domer to death. Investigations have uncovered that Madden was a sergeant in a White supremacist group and targeted Domer because he was gay. Domer's murder was allegedly a rite of passage for Qualls to rise to the next level within the organization. The district attorney prosecuting the case will present evidence to prove that Domer was targeted because he was gay. Oklahoma is one of seventeen States whose hate crime laws do not cover those targeted based on sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

LAUNCH OF USASPENDING.GOV

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I am very pleased to celebrate today's launch of USAspending.gov. This is an important day, an important milestone on the path to greater openness and transparency in the Federal Government. This site helps us to achieve a very simple and powerful vision: a vision that, in a democracy, the people ought to know what their Government is doing: how the Government is raising and spending money, how it is making and enforcing law, how it is supporting projects, how decisions are being made, and how results are being evaluated.

It is not a Democratic vision or a Republican vision. It is a commonsense vision of Government transparency and accessibility. It is a vision that rejects the idea that Government actions and decisions should be kept secret or classified. It is a vision that believes that information is at the heart of democracy and that we all must resist the dangerous trend of withholding or classifying or burying information that the American people have a right to know and need to know if they are to hold their leaders accountable.

I have been very troubled by the extent to which America has become a nation of government secrets. More and more information is kept secret or made intolerably complicated and inaccessible. More and more decisions are made behind closed doors with access limited to insiders and lobbyists.

USAspending.gov along with watchdog groups will give us all tools to help buck that trend. It will help by opening Government processes up to public view. It will provide a window into the Federal budget so all Americans can see how their tax dollars are being spent—how their Nation's resources are being used and obligated, where money is going as well as where it is not going. We will be able to see which grantees and contractors are receiving